

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MANILA 06899 060810Z  
ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 MCT-01 JUSE-00 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02  
SY-05 DHA-02 /036 W  
-----070227Z 040619 /73/15  
R 060754Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9380

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MANILA 6899

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR, RP, US  
SUBJECT: REACTION TO LECHOCO VERDICT

REF: STATE 100090

1. PRESS COVERAGE OF LECHOCO ACQUITTAL HAS BEEN RESTRAINED. PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY (PNA) CARRIED PERFUNCTORY, STRAIGHT-FORWARD ACCOUNT WHICH NOTED THAT JURY "GAVE WEIGHT TO TESTIMONIES OF DEFENSE WITNESSES THAT LECHOCO WAS TEMPORARILY INSANE WHEN HE COMMITTED THE CRIMINAL ACT" AND QUOTED AMBASSADOR EDUARDO ROMUALDEZ AS SAYING, "I WISH MR. LECHOCO WELL. I WISH HIS FAMILY ALL HAPPINESS." MAY 4 EVENING POST AND MAY 5 EDITIONS OF TIMES JOURNAL AND DAILY EXPRESS ALL RAN PNA STORY WITHOUT EMBROIDERY UNDER SMALL, FRONT-PAGE HEADLINES. THE BULLETIN TODAY (WHICH DOES NOT SUBSCRIBE TO PNA SERVICE) IGNORED LECHOCO STORY. SO FAR THERE HAS BEEN NO EDITORIAL COMMENT.

2. COMMENT: GOP DOES NOT SEEM PARTICULARLY EXERCISED OVER LECHOCO ACQUITTAL. INCLUSION OF AMBASSADOR ROMUALDEZ' MAGNANIMOUS COMMENT IN PHILIPPINE WIRE SERVICE ACCOUNT WOULD INDICATE THAT FORGIVENESS IS ORDER OF THE DAY. WE WILL REPORT ANY FURTHER REACTION.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TRIALS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 06-May-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977MANILA06899  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770160-0598  
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**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** 48ba8a99-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION L  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 STATE 100090  
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**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
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**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Subject:** REACTION TO LECHOCO VERDICT  
**TAGS:** PFOR, CGEN, RP, US, (LECHOCO, NAPOLEON)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009